

Students donate blood for good cause

Page 4

New friends stitch together at UM Cosplay Association

Page 6

The Alabamian

Vol. 90 No. 3 Thursday, September 24, 2015

Two professors killed at Delta State

By: MALIA KORTRIGHT

History professor Dr. Ethan Schmidt was found dead in his office at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS on Monday, Sept 14. He was found hours after he died with a gunshot wound in his head. Shortly after, Schmidt's friend and colleague Shannon Lamb was identified as the perpetrator. Authorities have yet to discover his motive.

Authorities believe Lamb drove off campus shortly after he shot Schmidt. Officers who were following Lamb reported watching him pull onto the side of a road near Greenville, MS and walk into a heavily wooded area. They heard what sounded like gunshots and found Lamb's body shortly after. Delta State's campus went on a lock-down for the remainder of Monday until the end of Tuesday.

Though the shooting was more than a week ago, students and faculty at UM are still responding to news of the shooting. Junior Samantha Pullen noted how common school-related shootings have become. "The fact that this happens so frequently has almost dulled my reaction," she said.

However, Doctor Marcia Hamby, a UM counselor, claims this incident differs from most



The Delta State shooting differs from most campus shootings, in that the victim and shooter were both faculty.

Donnie Bennett/The Alabamian

school shootings because both the shooter and victim were faculty members.

"Campuses are just like any community, and they can have people with all kinds of issues. Some of those could be mental health," said Hamby.

Unlike many other schools, the UM extends the opportunity

to receive counseling further than to only students. "Here, we offer access to students, faculty, and staff. That's not true on all campuses, but it is true here," said Hamby. "It's been a sad situation. This was apparently a very beloved faculty member. All of those things bring out that sense of grieving.

Anybody's welcome to come here and talk with one of the counselors."

To schedule an appointment, call 205-665-6245 or visit the Counseling Services office located in the lower level of Main Hall anytime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

This day in history

By: DANIELLE STALLWORTH

On Sept. 24, 1895, Annie Kopchovsky became the first woman to bicycle around the world.

She claimed her voyage began after two wealthy clubmen in Boston challenged her to circle the globe by bicycle in 15 months for \$5,000.

The Londonderry Spring Water Company paid her to carry their logos and banners on her bike and body as advertisement on her journey.

With only a revolver and a change of clothes, she left from the steps of the Boston Statehouse in June 1894 and arrived back 15 months later.

Afterwards, she changed her name to Annie Londonderry and wrote features for the New York World that detailed her adventure.

In her first story, she wrote, "I am a journalist and 'a new woman,' if that term means that I believe I can do anything that any man can do."

UM police chief talks police brutality, all lives matter

By REED STRENGTH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For many police officers, an already dangerous job feels even more threatening. The aftermath of the 2014 Ferguson shootings and the subsequent Black Lives Matter movement lead to some protesters chanting for the murder of police.

A recent CNN article titled "Police feel under siege" explains this trend and quotes the unease several officers from around the country are experiencing.

Despite this perception, a statistic in the same article finds recent police shootings are actually 16 percent lower than last year.

Whatever the numbers indicate, UM Police Chief Chadd Adams says the pressure is all too real.

"As a police officer, I'm as nervous about dealing with juveniles as I am about dealing with adults," said Adams.

Adams stands by the embroiled officer Darren Wilson for his actions in the shooting of African American teenager Mike Brown one year ago. In March, the U.S. Department of Justice concluded a lengthy investigation clearing Wilson of any wrongdoing in the shooting.

However, many condemned Wilson for shooting at an unarmed Brown in the first place. Adams says an officer pulls out a weapon in only the most dire of situations. "Do you know how hard it

"We're still here doing our jobs standing on the frontline, doing everything we can to protect you. Regardless of how you feel about us, when you call, we come."

is to shoot people, period?" he asked. "Look, it's hard to hit a full body much less a little arm."

It's a situation Adams said he has been fortunate to never face. "In 20 years, I've never had to use my weapon. And I hope I can go 20 more," he said. "But if I had to use my weapon to save myself or the public, I would do it."

In order to de-escalate a situation, Adams said an officer's use of force is completely dependent on the force of an aggressor. His greatest piece of advice for ensuring personal safety during any police situation is to listen and follow the directions an officer gives.

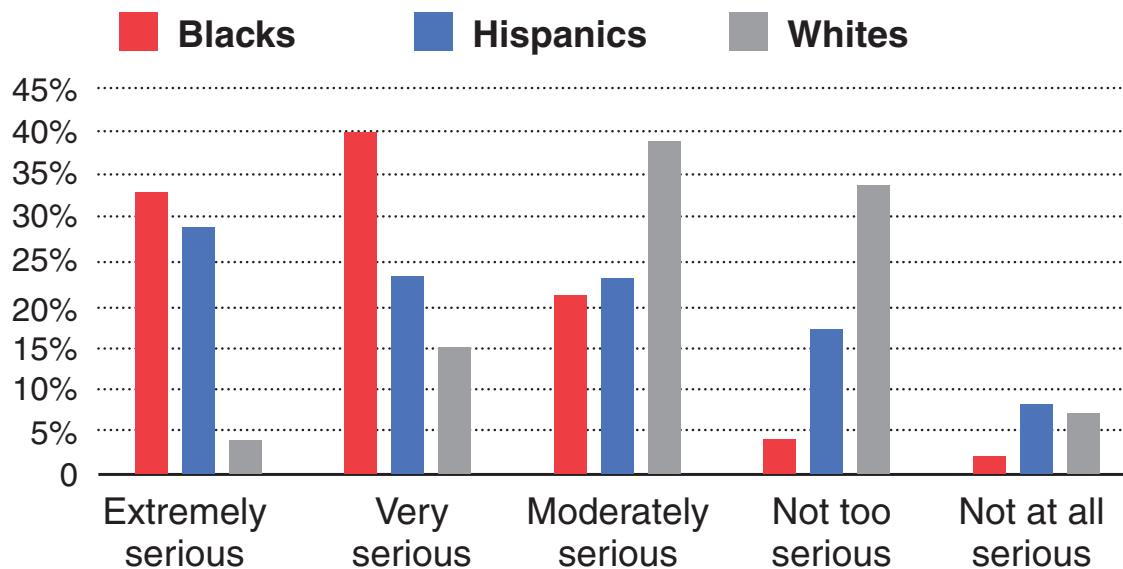
"You don't challenge authority in certain situations. I'm not saying you don't stand up for what's right, but when you're dealing with life and death situations, you don't do that," said Adams.

The chief encouraged filing a formal complaint after complying with an officer.

"I can assure you as a police chief, if an employee or police officer is negligent in his duty, and he does kill someone

Views of police violence

How serious a problem do you think police violence against the public is in the United States?



Source: AP-NORC
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

that wasn't justified, I believe he needs to be punished for it wholeheartedly," said Adams.

In terms of the racial tensions that sparked the waves of protests, Adams says he is well aware, but doesn't see color on the job. "All lives matter," he said.

The chief said that though public opinion may not be positive about police, the UM community can always expect a quick response.

"We're still here doing our jobs standing on the frontline, doing everything we can to protect you. Regardless of how you feel about us, when you call, we come. With no questions asked," he said.

"There are bad police officers. But the last time I checked, there are bad doctors, bad journalists, bad teachers...you have to take the good with the bad. You hope the good will weed the bad out," said Adams.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Viewpoints.....2 Lifestyles.....5
News.....3 On-Campus.....6

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Letter from the editor

Bookmarking treasured memories

A few weeks ago, I searched the many racks of America’s Thrift Store in Alabaster with the hope of finding treasure. After about an hour’s worth of sifting through screeching rows of hangers, I decided the trip was a bust.

My girlfriend, however, wasn’t ready to call off the hunt. So, rather than sink her expedition with my defeated demeanor, I wandered over to the used CDs to see if I could strike gold.

As my eyes scanned ahead for dusty jewel cases, I happened upon a small shelf of gently used children’s books. I had no intention of looking through the various titles, until

a familiar font unearthed a buried memory.

I picked up the small book in my hand and smiled. The hero of the story smiled back from the cover, his red towel cape outstretched in a frozen flap as he stood proudly atop a cartoon skyscraper. Where most superheroes dress in glorified underwear, this guy wore nothing but a pair of oversized tighty-whities. This guy was Captain Underpants.

This short chapter-comic series by Dav Pilkey was a favorite of mine growing up. It follows the story of two young friends who create a silly superhero to fight an assortment of potty mouthed villains and crude criminals.

I cracked the comic to one of its most famous “Flip-O’-Rama” sections. Every book featured a few of these illustrations that become animated upon flipping two

pages back and forth.

I looked up from the memory in motion to find other important stories. My left hand soon held a sizable chunk of books while my right hunted for more familiar favorites.

Most were early chapter book series from my time in the second grade, such as Suzy Kline’s “Horrible Harry” or “The Bailey School Kids” series by Marcia T. Jones and Debbie Dadey.

The biggest yelp of nostalgia came when I slid “There’s A Boy in the Girls’ Bathroom” by Louis Sachar from the shelf. The book isn’t nearly as well known as Sachar’s “Holes,” but it was one of the first stories to ever bring a true tear to my eye.

As I stared at my stack of nostalgic pages, my girlfriend came by to announce the trip was indeed, a bust. Instantly, I began gushing about my

discoveries and attempted to rattle off each book’s wacky premise. She listened patiently for awhile, but soon indicated that the window of time for our late night Aldi run was threatening to shut.

After careful thought, I decided “There’s A Boy in the Girls’ Bathroom” needed to return back to Montevallo with me.

The books I found were by no means masterpieces. My high school and college reads have had a far greater impact on my patterns of thought and personal development than anything Captain Underpants faced against.

However, the covers of these short books provided sharper clarity to memories long deemed fuzzy or insignificant. It was like remembering extremely minute details to moments I thought I knew well.



I picked up “There’s A Boy...” on a recent night with the intent of reading a few chapters before bed. An hour later, I turned the last page. Just as it had done 10 years prior, tears filled my eyes.

The ungraceful fall of pumpkin spice everything

By: LAURA POYTHRESS

Autumn has arrived, and many are excited to take in the flavors and aromas of things they correlate with the season. Scents commonly linked to this time of year include crisp air, toasted marshmallows, cranberries, cinnamon, nutmeg and pumpkin, to name a few.

Each aroma tends to run a cycle of popularity among consumers, but none so overwhelmingly as pumpkin spice.

Social media is plastered with a mixture of adoration for pumpkin spice and disdain for its overpopulation. It seems we have Starbucks to thank for this.

Each year, Starbucks introduces their pumpkin spice latte toward the end of August and beginning of September. For years, the drink was the only thing many people could find, besides actual pumpkin pie, to purchase under the label of “pumpkin spice.” As one of the few people in the world who actually enjoys pumpkin pie, I appreciated the simple nod Starbucks gave to the flavor, even if the sauce has the appearance of a melted burnt-orange crayon.

Fast forward a few years to 2015 and Jacob Robertson, a

senior English major, wrote a Facebook post saying, “I’m gonna cook a pumpkin spiced lasagna, because someone needs to demonstrate the danger of this cultural obsession.”

Robertson’s statement seems dramatic until you walk into nearly any store this time of year. Sprouts Farmers Market is just one of many with a display appealing to pumpkin-obsessed people. The display contains the following in pumpkin flavor: kale chips, sweet potato chips, corn chips, oatmeal, beer, sparkling juice, cheese-cake, apple sauce, soup, salad dressing and salsa. In a world where you can’t even find pomegranate flavored sorbet, an arguably normal thing, it seems absurd that someone is making pumpkin flavored corn chips and salsa.



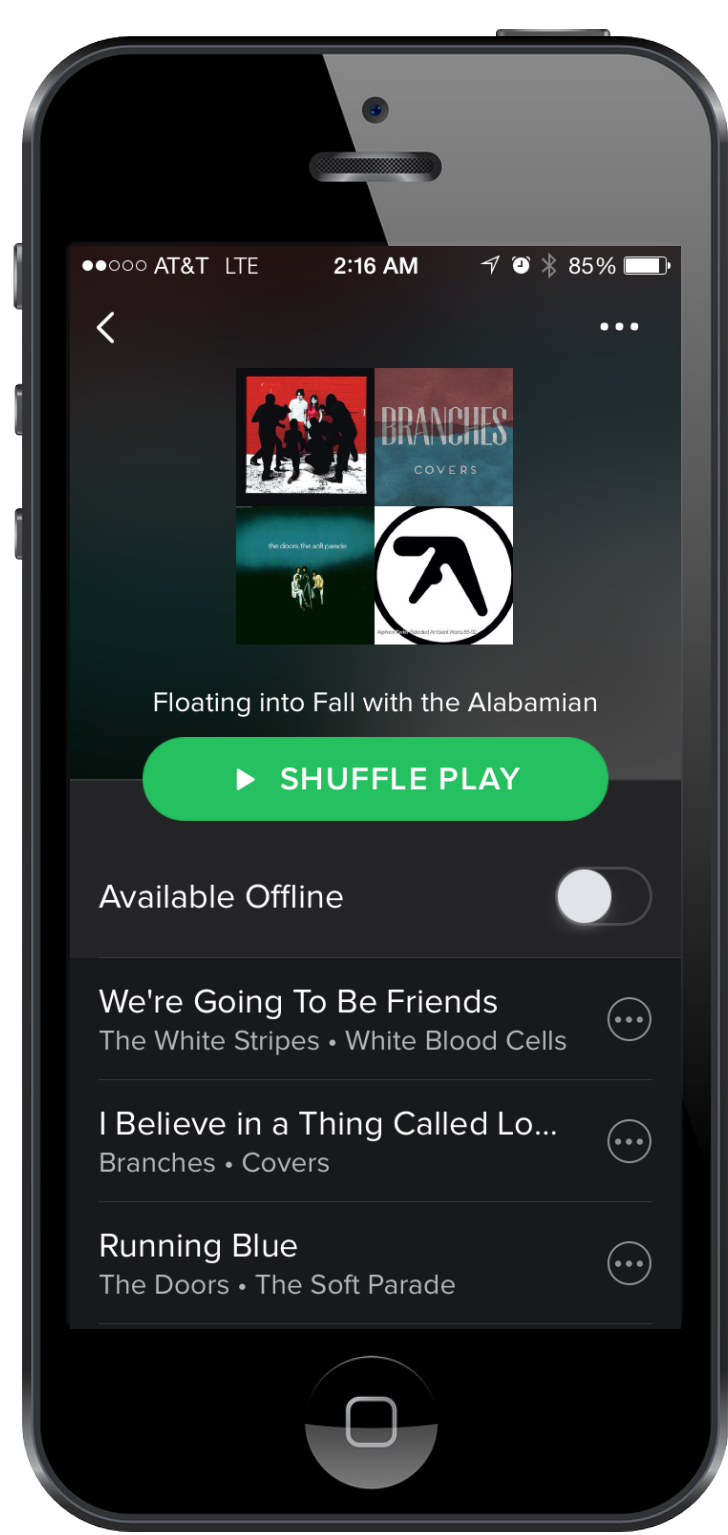
Fall has arrived and so has pumpkin spice, with differing opinions on its arrival.

Jordan Fore/ The Alabamian

It’s understandable that people want to smell pumpkin sometimes, without baking a pie. Perhaps these people want to trigger fond memories, but when pumpkin scent is everywhere,

we begin associating all things with it. Let’s not forget all of the other delicious scents that people link to the most wonderful time of the year. I want to see a study comparing people who buy

pumpkin spice everything and people who eat pumpkin pie. Based on holiday affairs I attend, I suspect there would be a strong disconnect.



Spotify® Playlist

The White Stripes-”We’re Going to Be Friends”

From the first soft strums of the guitar to the opening line that welcomes Fall in with only the slightest hesitation, this song is quintessential autumn blues mixed with a sense of hope for what is to come in the transition of the seasons.

Branches- “I Believe in a Thing Called Love”

Fall is the season of transformation; the leaves change color, and the heat of summer is exchanged for cool, crisp air. Perhaps this is why the transformative power of the acoustic guitar is so well suited for the season as it transfigures this once 70’s rock inspired track into a warm, autumnal tune.

The Doors - “Runnin’ Blue”

The tempo changes in this song are not unlike the changes in environment and atmosphere during the fall season. The rhythm makes me want to go for a long drive, watching the leaves fall.

Aphex Twin-“Xtal”

This is the pure, unabashed contentment one feels when wrapped in Fall’s chilly evening air. Its flickering beat plods steadily while a wispy, soothing voice dances in the background. I recommend it for homework on the quad while the afternoon sky gently fades to a darker and darker blue.

The Paper Kites - “Neon Crimson”

This song has an autumnal feel with the soft sounds of the band’s voices, reminiscent of a cool breeze, and the melody, like the crunch of leaves underfoot.

Hozier- “Cherry Wine” - Live

The combination of the gentle strum of the guitar and Hozier’s soft, low voice makes this the ideal

song to listen to when winding down from a busy autumn day, especially if accompanied by a fresh cup of hot chocolate.

Dexy’s Midnight Runners- “Come On Eileen”

The fiddle in the song gives strong feelings of fall. The leaves crunching under your feet, spices in the air, and a crisp chill whipping against your back. Clear a dance floor in your room and dance the stress away.

Ed Sheeran- “Autumn Leaves”

As if the title wasn’t obvious enough, this light little tune will help you fall right into Autumn (pun intended). So whether you’re kickin it on the quad or commuting in the early morning chill to get to school on time, let Ed’s smooth melody get you to a cooler state of mind.

John Mayer and Tom Petty live at the Nokia Theatre “Free Fallin”-

Turn it up loud wherever you are and feel right in the midst of an evening summer concert. Even though we’re moving into fall, we can still look back and reflect on another summer come and gone. Whether it was good or bad, let this iconic song’s with rustic guitar licks help you turn a new leaf into the changing season.

Grizzly Bear- “On A Neck, On a Spit”

Fall is inexplicably the season where woody instrumentation fits in best with the changing environment. Grizzly Bear at first use banjo, fiddle and mandolin to evoke the familiar crackle of leaves under foot and gradually cooling air. However, the back-half’s furious freakout at the end warns of the approach towards the dark, biting nights of Winter.

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One in four female undergraduates reports sexual misconduct, survey finds

By: TERESA WATANABE, LOS ANGELES TIMES

More than one in four female undergraduate students reported they were victimized by nonconsensual sexual contact in a national survey of 27 universities released Monday.

But the survey for the Association of American Universities, one of the most comprehensive ever conducted on college sexual misconduct, found wide variation in the cases depending on campus, gender, age and type of offense.

Among undergraduate females, for instance, between 13 percent and 30 percent had been victimized by the most serious types of misconduct – sexual penetration or touching involving force, threats of force or incapacitation by alcohol or drugs across the campuses surveyed. The risk was highest for freshman women, whose rate was 16.9 percent, compared with 11.1 percent for seniors in 2014-15. But over the course of their college life, 26.1 percent of senior females reported being victimized.

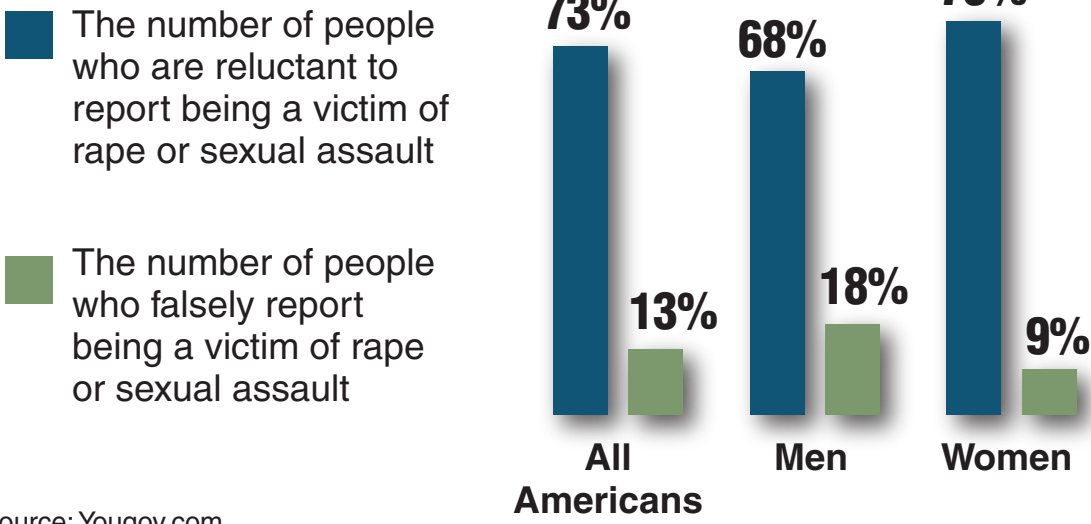
The online survey of 150,000 students also found low rates of reporting sexual misconduct and a mixed

response over whether respondents believed their university would conduct a fair investigation. But the vast majority of those who actually reported their cases gave high marks to officials for showing them respect and helping them understand their options.

The survey was aimed at helping campuses address the problem of sexual misconduct, according to Hunter Rawlings,

Reporting sexual assault

Which number do you think is larger?



Source: Yougov.com
Graphic: Greg Good, Tribune News Service

the association’s president. “The leaders of our universities are deeply concerned about the impact of these issues on their students,” Rawlings said in a statement. “Their participation

in this and other climate surveys is an important part of their efforts to combat sexual assault.”

Many universities have moved to improve their response to campus sexual misconduct

since the federal government began cracking down in 2011 with a record number of policy directives, fines and more than 100 investigations. Rawlings said the data can also be used to assist policymakers in crafting additional responses.

Estimates of the problem have varied widely. One frequently cited study of two large public universities found a rate of nearly 20 percent among female

college seniors. The University of California’s 2014 survey of 104,000 students, faculty and staff members, however, asked its questions differently and found only six percent of undergraduates had experienced “unwanted sexual contact.”

The university association released only the aggregate results of the survey, which was conducted by the Westat research firm in April. Each of the campus participants, which included USC and Caltech in California, was expected to release its own findings separately. Other participants included Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Brown, Cornell, Columbia, Purdue and the University of Arizona.

In a unique design, the survey asked students whether the nonconsensual sexual contact occurred by force, incapacitation, non-physical coercion or the absence of “affirmative consent,” an emerging standard that requires both partners to explicitly agree to the encounter. Physical force was the most

prevalent tactic and coercion the least.

Overall, 28 percent of female undergraduates reported they were victimized by any of the four tactics. About 23 percent of female undergraduates and 11.7 percent of all students surveyed reported the most serious – physical force and incapacitation – had been used against them. The relatively low response rate of 19.3 percent could have produced a slight upward bias in the results, researchers said.

David Cantor, one of the lead survey investigators and a University of Maryland research professor, said one of the most striking findings was the wide disparity in campus experiences with sexual misconduct.

“This sends a very strong message that each institution faces really unique circumstances and challenges when trying to change campus climates and prevent and respond to sexual assault and misconduct,” he said.

Other findings

- Rates of assault were highest among students who identified as transgender, gender-queer (a term the survey uses but does not define), non-conforming, questioning or a category not listed on the survey.
- Rates of reporting ranged between 5 percent and 28 percent, depending on the behavior. More than half of those surveyed said they did not believe it was serious enough, while others said they were too embarrassed or ashamed, among other reasons.
- Six of 10 female undergraduates said they had been sexually harassed. Gays and lesbians reported harassment rates of 60.4 percent compared with 45.9 percent of heterosexuals.
- The rate of nonconsensual sexual contact at private universities was 25.3 percent, compared with 22.8 percent for public universities. But researchers did not find a clear explanation for the disparity in campus results.
- Most students did nothing while witnessing a drunk person headed for a sexual encounter or cases of sexual violence or harassment.
- Nearly 9 of 10 students who reported misconduct said the respect shown to them by investigating officials was excellent or good.
- Only about a quarter of students surveyed said they were very or extremely knowledgeable about where to get help for sexual assault or misconduct.

UM blood drive a positive experience

By: GABE GANNON



Students give back by having their blood taken and donated to help save lives for the American Red Cross. *Dylan Dagnan/ The Alabamian*

The second floor of Farmer Hall was consistently crowded on Tuesday Sept. 15 and Wednesday Sept. 16 as UM students gathered to donate blood to the American Red Cross.

Donna McClure, the Red Cross representative for UM, stated that the blood drive was hugely successful in that 69 pints of blood were collected. She

disclosed that the blood donated is enough product for a possibly 207 people to benefit from the donations.

Over a hundred UM students gathered to give blood, flooring the expectations of the organizers. Many donors said their motives ranged from a sense of social responsibility to personal experience.

Junior accounting major Katherine Nally stated, “I donate because about seven years ago, I needed a blood transfusion and I like to give back.”

The blood donated at the drive truly does give back to our local community, as most of the blood product collected is utilized at University of Alabama-Birmingham’s Department of

Surgery and at Children’s Hospital in Birmingham.

UM has been hosting blood drives since 2009, and in that time the campus alone has collected 1,242 pints of blood - enough blood product for 3726, according to McClure.

Students who wish to participate in the next blood drive should plan to attend when the

American Red Cross returns to our campus on Nov. 11 and 12 for a Blood Drive Block Party.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or download the Red Cross Blood Donor App. Walk-ins are welcome.

Microsoft launches Office 2016

By: MATT DAY, THE SEATTLE TIMES

Two months after launching Windows 10, Microsoft has introduced a new edition of its other ubiquitous product.

Microsoft released Office 2016 for Windows on Sept. 22, offering refreshed versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other applications.

Home users were able download the latest applications starting Tuesday, the Seattle-area software company said. Large businesses will receive the updated software early next year.

With the latest installment of the 26-year-old franchise, Microsoft is continuing its recent effort to nudge its customers toward buying its software by subscription, rather than as a one-time purchase.

The look and feel of the programs will be familiar to anyone who has used the 2013 edition of Microsoft’s productivity software, said Jared Spataro, a general manager of marketing with the Office team. Much of what’s new with the 2016 edition, he said, is better integrated collaboration tools.

“Until the last two years, we were so focused on one scenario – a single person on a PC banging out documents,” Spataro said.

A new co-authoring feature allows multiple users to edit the same document in real time, long a feature of Office’s Web-based cousins and apps built by Google and other Microsoft competitors. Also arriving is chat service Skype, which will be embedded within Office apps to let users send instant messages, share

images of their work, or video chat from within a document.

Other new features include a search tool to locate specific functions within Office, and a research tool that pulls data from the Internet into documents.

Office 2016 will include presentation software Sway, which uses algorithms and design concepts in a bid to take font tweaking and other detail work out of document design. Sway is the first new member of the core office suite since the 2003 introduction of note-taking application OneNote.

Microsoft is pushing to sell the software suite through Office 365, the company’s subscription program, instead of the traditional model of a one-time purchase that gives the user rights to the software in

perpetuity.

The subscription model, Microsoft says, gives customers the most up-to-date features and tweaks. The relationship also affords Microsoft more predictability in its sales by locking users into monthly or annual agreements.

In a blog post highlighting some new features of Office 2016, Microsoft Corporate Vice President Kirk Koenigsbauer said the company would begin rolling out monthly updates to Office 365 subscribers.

In July, Microsoft said more than 15 million people had subscriptions to Office 365 for personal use and that the figure was growing at a pace of nearly 1 million users a month. The company hasn’t disclosed a tally of its business subscribers.

Microsoft estimates about 1.2 billion people use some component of Office.

Personal Office 365 subscriptions cost between about \$6 and \$10 a month, depending on whether buyers opt for monthly or annual subscriptions and how many devices on which the software may be installed.

As a one-time purchase, Office 2016 will cost \$149 for personal or student customers, and \$229 for business use. Both are \$10 increases from the comparable edition of Office 2013.

“If we were trying to push ahead, we would do away with perpetual (licenses),” Spataro said. “But we don’t think the market’s ready for that. I think we’re striking the right balance now.”

Calender of Events

<p>Thursday, September 24</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Phi Gamma Delta Cardboard Boat Race SAC</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Eclipse’s 14th Birthday Open Mic Night Eclipse Coffee and Books</p> <p>Friday, September 25</p> <p>9:00 p.m. Show: The old Paints/ Nuclear Milwaukee Eclipse Coffee and Books</p> <p>Saturday, September 26</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women’s Soccer vs. Armstrong State Varsity Field</p> <p>Monday, September 28</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Safe Zone Speaker Patricia Todd Wills 201</p> <p>6:00 p.m. B.O.N.D. Presents Body Image Open Discussion Comer 308</p> <p>6:00 p.m. University of Montevallo Gospel Chorale Interest Meeting Davis 305</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Active Minds Meeting Comer205</p>	<p>Tuesday, September 29</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Women’s Volleyball vs. Columbus St. SAC</p> <p>Wednesday, September 30</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Women’s Soccer vs. Clayton St. Varsity Fields</p> <p>5:30 p.m. FMLA Feminist Movie Night Comer Auditorium</p> <p>6:30 p.m Men’s Soccer vs. Clayton St. Varsity Fields</p> <p>Thursday, October 1</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Montevallo Young Democrats Farmer Meeting Room</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Cynthia MacCrae & Roderick George Joint Faculty Recital LeBaron Recital Hall</p> <p>Friday, October 2</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Women’s Volleyball vs. USC Aiken SAC</p>	<p>9:00 p.m. Poetry Slam Eclipse Coffee and Books</p> <p>Saturday, October 3</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Chi O Color Run SAC</p> <p>12:00p.m. Women’s Volleyball vs. Lander SAC</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Best Buddies Montevallo Aaron’s Staff Respite Bibb Graves Gym</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Women’s Volleyball vs. Stillman SAC</p> <p>Monday, October 5</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Ultimate Frisbee Coaches’ Meeting Farming Meeting Room</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Lori Ardivino Faculty Recital LeBaron Recital Hall</p> <p>Tuesday, September 22</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Purple Side Interest Meeting SAC</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Illusionist Ben Seidman Palmer Auditorium</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Andrew Miller, Guest Artist LeBaron Recital Hall</p> <p>Wednesday, October 7</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Women’s Soccer vs. North Georgia Varsity Fields</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Men’s Soccer vs. North Georgia Varsity Fields</p> <p>Thursday, October 8</p> <p>Founders Day</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Convocation</p> <p>7:00p.m. Life Raft Debate Palmer Auditorium</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Mondays</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Amnesty International Meeting UMOM 220</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Spectrum (GSA) Meetings Farmer Hall Meeting Room</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Korean Culture Club Meeting Reynolds 226</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Anime Clube Meeting Harmen 119</p> <p>Tuesdays</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Resonate Worship Service Baptist Campus Ministry</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Secular Student Alliance Meeting Morgan-Comer Commuter Lodge</p> <p>Wednesdays</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Cafe Escape Baptist Campus Ministry</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Meeting Reynolds 226</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Chess Club Meeting Hill House Classroom</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Whovian Society Meeting Comer 205</p> <p>Thursdays</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Harry Potter Club Meeting Comer 205</p>
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Fashion on the bricks

By: JASMYNE RAY, MANAGING EDITOR OF CONTENT

As students, we’re constantly on the move. Whether it’s to class or to work, we’re a blur of business and ambition. So naturally, our clothes should reflect this.

For sophomore Aubrey Mixon, how much effort she puts into an outfit depends on how much time she has.

“I decided that I wanted to look semi-cute because my hair was going to be bad,” Mixon, a family consumer sciences major, said about the featured ensemble. “So I thought that my outfit would distract from my bad hair day.”

On school days, she takes about 30 minutes to do hair and makeup, but on weekends she’ll take about an hour.

Mixon’s solution to figuring out what to wear? “I have to work a lot, so I pick my clothes out the night before,” she said. She describes her style as “casual cute and cheap” because she doesn’t like spending a lot of money on clothes.

Aubrey’s look features a royal blue sleeveless top with a black cami underneath to keep it from being see-through. Her light washed, distressed jeans and tan wedges add a subtle brightness to the look. Mixon shops at thrift stores, Macy’s and surf boutiques (fun fact: she’s from Hawaii).



Aubrey Mixon shows off her casual cute style. Jasmyne Ray/The Alabamian

Local author signs latest book

By: MADISON GRIGGS

Members of the Montevallo community ordered milkshakes and gathered around tables at Eclipse Coffee & Books last Wednesday, Sept. 16 to hear local author and former UM professor Bill Cobb read from his latest book. Past students, old friends and curious locals fought for a chair close to Cobb and his cluster of companions.

The first half hour of the event was set aside for coffee and catching up. Around 4:30 p.m., Cobb began reading excerpts from his book, “Captain Billy’s Troopers: A Writer’s Life.” The inspiration for this memoir came after his long-winded struggle and triumph over normal pressure hydrocephalus, a form of

dementia, and less immediately his triumph over alcoholism.

He was open and unashamed of these struggles, which were touched on in the passages he chose and wrapped in stories of growing up in Demopolis.

Cobb read with a light-hearted wit and induced several chuckles and knowing smiles from the listeners, who could easily relate to the stories of his adolescence. Toward the end of the reading, there was a request from an audience member for Cobb’s rendition of the song “Captain Billy’s Troopers”, to which he replied, “The R-rated version?” and proceeded to sing just that.

Once the laughter died down, he moved to one of the front rooms, where people

filtered in and out to get their personal copies of the book signed, or simply chat with the approachable author.

When asked how he felt about this kind of event, Cobb replied smiling, “I love to be welcomed in my town.” Cheryl Patton, Eclipse’s owner and an old friend of Cobb’s, described him as “warm and funny; a southern institution.”

The event had a similar tone, and it’s mood reflected that of a large group of friends meeting for drinks rather than a structured or corporate book signing. Cobb’s future plans are simple and, for the most part, up in the air; “I’ve been working on a long novel, but I’ve never been able to get it right,” he said, smiling.

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Our Autumn events beckon to you, dear reader

from music to poetry. always all ages. never any cover.

ECLIPSE'S BIRTHDAY OPEN MIC NIGHT Sign-up at 8! Come show us your jamz!	SEPT 24 9 PM
THE OLD PAINTS NUCLEAR MILWAUKEE Locally grown pop-country & crusty punk	SEPT 25 9 PM
POETRY SLAM IT'S A POETRY SLAM The event on this day is a Poetry Slam	OCT 3 9 PM
JACQUIE COTILLARD CAHABA Musical thrills and musical chills, for free	OCT 9 9 PM
RAYVON PETTIS DON COYOTE Strange, folk-Americana rock operas	OCT 10 9 PM
GREAT SHAPES ANOTHER BAND TBA It's a rock n' roll dance party!	OCT 16 9 PM

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Dressing up with Montevallo Cosplay Association

By: MALIA KORTRIGHT



A UMCA member stitches together a piece to bring their cosplay to life Jane Goodman/ The Alabamian

The University of Montevallo Cosplay Association (UMCA) is beginning its first semester on campus. The Cosplay Association is a campus group for character costume enthusiasts.

According to Skylar Acton, the president and founder, the Cosplay Association is intended to be a place where people who are interested in cosplay feel safe and welcome. “When I started cosplaying, I gained a family. I learned what it meant to be unconditionally loved, and I wanted to provide a space where anyone who walks through the doors of the Cosplay Association is protected. I will do

whatever it takes to make their dreams come true,” said Acton.

The association president started a similar organization at Auburn University before transferring to the UM. He describes the process of starting an organization on campus as fairly easy. Student Life requires that a group has 10 members before it is officially recognized. So far, the Cosplay Association has 45.

The group meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Comer 308. “We try to vary it up,” said Cosplay Association secretary Farrah Harper, “We’ll have a panel and a workshop every month. We’ve [also] got some

fundraising events planned. We’re doing Cosplay Chess, which is going to be partnered with the Chess Club, so that will be interesting.”

Freshman Prima Hall and sophomore Jessica Ledford both look forward to being involved with the Cosplay Association throughout this academic year. “I hope to gain a beginners primer of cosplay fundamentals, maybe sewing, possibly leather work.” According to Hall, “They seem really nice, like a family. I hope that I can learn some tips while also building relationships and having fun.”

Ross Szabo presents Behind Happy Faces

By: Jordan Fore

On the evening of Sept. 17, Active Minds, a campus organization, hosted the presentation Behind Happy Faces (BHF) to promote awareness and diminish negative connotations about mental health .

Ross Szabo, speaker of BHF, has shared his personal struggles, mishaps and triumphs with bipolar disorder to over a million people.

The purpose of this presentation was to approach the societal issues mental health has. Szabo addressed these in a lighthearted manner but also left the audience with a sense of how serious the issue is. He said the most important aspect of the presentation was “Mental health is for everyone.” He explained that the ways one choses to deal with the challenges are called coping mechanisms.

Szabo also emphasized sleep’s effect on good mental health. He said sleep is a key item which goes



Ross Szabo talks to students about the importance of mental health Dylan Dagnan/ The Alabamian

hand in hand with mental health. He said militias’ most useful interrogation tactic is to allow the person in question to obtain three to five hours of sleep because it mentally wears them down. In comparison, the average college student obtains four to six hours of sleep a night.

Szabo said counseling is a great

resource to equip oneself with the tools to deal and cope with challenges in a healthy way.

“Behind Happy Faces” is also the title of the book Szabo wrote which goes into more detail.

Anyone interested in joining Active Minds can attend their next meeting on Sept. 28 in Comer room 205 at 7:00 p.m.

The Alabamian Recommends

Music- Low

“Ones and Sixes”

On Low’s latest album, husband Alan Sparhawk and wife Mimi Parker explore themes of relationship miscommunication. On opener “Easier,” the two harmonize the album’s thesis with “it doesn’t have to end this way.” What follows are the different conclusions couples face after a nasty fight. This is best exemplified by how the terse, white knuckled tension of “No Comprende” perfectly compliments the bright relief of “Spanish Translation” in more than just title. If this couple’s misery sounds like perfect company, Low has another 10 albums to keep any frown upside down.

Books-Kelly

Williams Brown

“Adulting: How to Become a Grown Up in 468 Easy(ish) Steps”

For all the real life advice you didn’t learn in school, this is the book for you. Kelly Williams Brown covers everything from what to do when looking for an apartment, how to act/dress for job interviews and even the importance of buying toilet paper in bulk.

TV

“Empire”

After a record breaking season finale where 16.7 million viewers tuned in, the FOX phenomenon returns to the small screen on Sept. 24. With musical patriarch Lucious Lyon behind bars, his eccentric ex-wife Cookie is now in charge of Empire Records. With her sassy sayings and loud wardrobe, it’s bound to be an interesting season.

UM students raise HIV awareness

By: JASMYNE RAY, MANAGING EDITOR OF CONTENT

According to AIDs.gov, more than a million people in the United States have human immunodeficiency virus, commonly known as HIV. One in eight people don’t even know that they have it.

To raise awareness and give people in the Montevallo community the chance to get tested, Elise Hayes partnered with Birmingham AIDS Outreach (BAO) to plan Eclipse’s Magic City AIDS Walk Party.

The idea for the event came easily to Hayes, a senior social work major, because she frequently volunteers with BAO.

The organization provides free services like housing and related healthcare to people living with HIV, services for LGBTQ individuals along with free STD and HIV/AIDS testing.



The red ribbon is a well known symbol for AIDS awareness

“As a member of the LGBT community, many members of this population are dear to me,” Hayes said. “We wanted to throw a party to promote the AIDS walk coming up on the 27th of September so that we could include the people of Montevallo, get our name out there, and provide the option of free testing in our town.”

Hayes and Jamie Whitehurst, BAO’s development director, chose Eclipse as the location of the party for its “inclusive atmosphere”

“We called and they were happy to host the event.” Hayes said.

The tests administered were bloodless, rapid HIV antibody tests where individuals swab their mouths with a given cotton swab. They’d be called with the results the next day.

“They’re really great, easy tests to do,” Whitehurst said. “No blood, it’s just a simple mouth swab.”

Providing the music for the evening was SEOUL, a local band fronted by UM students Joseph “JoJo” Markel and Matt Suddarth.

Markel, a senior mass communication major, described SEOUL’s setlist for the night as “dirty RnB”, featuring covers of songs by The Weeknd and The Internet along with two original songs.

“It’s mostly just to have a super kick*ss fun time, not necessarily to show off all the music we write,” Markel said, “It’s not about us.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, around one in four of all new HIV infections are among youth ages 13 to 24. Hayes hoped this event would show the importance of getting tested and raise sex education awareness in Montevallo.

“If we don’t educate,” Hayes said, “How will people prevent it?”

On the bricks with Madison Griggs

1. What’s your overall impression of FalconNet?
2. How have its issues affected you personally?
3. How do you feel the school has handled it?
4. How do you feel it’s working now?



Artemus Hill Senior accounting major

1. “I hate it. It was good in the beginning, but then they redid it and now it’s not good”
2. “When I want to relax and get on the Internet, I have to go to Farmer when I really want to stay in my room”
3. “They did an okay job--they had a guy in Farmer helping people. At least they made an effort”
4. “There are still a lot of issues, but for the first few days it worked really well”

- Courtney Scott Freshman psychology major**
1. “It works sometimes”
 2. “I can’t get my homework done sometimes. It’s better than the other one though”
 3. “They’ve been helpful. They’ve done the best they can, they have other things to worry about”
 4. “It’s working better now”



Adam Pettway Junior mass comm major

1. “I’m not even connected to it, it won’t even install on my phone”
2. “I already ran out of data and had to buy more”
3. “They haven’t done the best they could do”
4. “There are still a lot of issues”

- Brandi Taylor Junior retail merch major**
1. “It’s extremely annoying and frustrating”
 2. “Last week I didn’t have wifi on my phone--I had to use data and got in trouble with my father”
 3. “I don’t know why they changed it. But I feel like they’ve handled it well, but they should keep students more informed. The students aren’t notified when it’s not working.”
 4. “I used to not be able to use it at all, so it’s better”

